

**Milford Conservation Commission****Meeting Minutes May 8, 2014****7:00 BOS Meeting Room**

**PRESENT: Members:** Audrey Fraizer, Chair; Andy Hughes, V Chair; Andy Seale, Becky Lorette, Janet Urquhart. **Alternate members:** Chris Costantino.

**EXCUSED:** Hub Seward and Kim Rimalover.

**Guests:** Greg Boggis, prospective new member; Eric Radloff and Mike Powers - Bay State Forestry;

**Public:** Suzanne Fournier and Tom Gardiner.

**Approval of April meeting minutes:** approved unanimously on a motion by BeckyL, seconded by JanetU.

**Appointment: 7:15** - Eric Radloff and Mike Powers from Bay State Forestry. Eric Radloff presented the Mile Slip Management Plan to the Commission. There were a few questions and comments from the members and it was accepted.

1. The plan reflects the owner's wishes concerning the use of the property with a particular emphasis on timber management. EricR included information about wildlife habitat management, but suggested that the Commission seek further information from such organizations as The Young Forest Project and The Wildlife Management Institute.
2. Invasives mentioned in the plan are not concentrated and are dispersed throughout the property. It might be helpful to take an inventory. The Commission could consider asking a wildlife biologist for a wildlife management plan for the parking and landing areas.
3. Mike Powers offered to do a management plan for the Episcopal Church piece which was recently added to the Rotch property. This would be an addendum to the current Management Plan which Mike wrote for the Rotch Town Forest.
4. The foresters submitted the invoice for the Mile Slip MP for \$10,000. This will be paid from the Town Forest Fund.

Item	Discussion	Who Will Do What
1. 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday hike	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• April 26 Hike at Brox –It was a rainy dreary day with 2 hikers choosing to hike with AudreyF and ChrisC</li><li>• May hike at Tucker Brook Orienteering Course – Charlotte Gray and her daughter Melissa will lead the hike.</li></ul>	ChrisC will print copies of the map and instructions and deliver them to the Grays.
2. Souhegan Valley C of C Expo	Saturday, October 18 - \$175 for a 10x10 table. (Note Pumpkin Festival October 4 <sup>th</sup> and Race October 25 <sup>th</sup> ). Do we want to do this again this year? We could include information about the upcoming warrant articles.	No action at this point. It is a very busy month and the members are disinclined to participate. ChrisC will check to see if the Trails Committee wants to do this.
3. Training Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drinking Water Conference – April 30</li><li>• NHANRS Wetland Workshop</li><li>• ROST/SVLT annual meeting – Pam Hunt with a presentation called State of the Birds on May 2</li><li>• NHANRS Wetland Aerial Photography Analysis – May 30 at Plymouth S. U. 8am to 4pm</li></ul>	No action needed. ChrisC gave a brief report of the events she attended and AudreyF reported on the State of the Birds presentation.
4. Trails Committee	Proposed trail and parking at Rotch Town Forest by Brian Hawkins, Trails Committee Chair	Site walk scheduled for May 15 at 5:30. Meeting at the Rt 13S entrance. ChrisC will notify Brian Hawkins and send a reminder email.

5. Mile Slip Easement	Nothing has been done to date	AudreyF will continue to work on this
6. Rail Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Andy S – lots of beaver activity. He and ChrisC have made several trips to clear the culverts resulting in a significant drop in water levels.</li> <li>b. Armory Road bridge posting announcement</li> <li>c. Elevated ramp into a tunnel under Melendy Rd per Guy's request</li> <li>d. S. Fournier had comments concerning the value of retaining the water levels in the ponds along the rail trail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. AndyS and ChrisC are working on a beaver deceiver solution.</li> <li>b. ChrisC will post the Armory Rd bridge RFP on Facebook , the website and the Cabinet</li> <li>c. ChrisC will contact Fieldstone to get an idea (hopefully no charge) of the feasibility of an inclined ramp into a tunnel rather than a full bridge under Melendy Rd.</li> </ul>
7. Natural Resource Inventory at Brox	<p>Audrey explained that NRI(s) (or their equivalent in information content) are, in broad terms, part of CC's (Conservation Commission) function. We do however have to operate within our financial constraints. We are considering an NRI for Brox Community Lands first, as there are discussions ongoing at the planning level for community development on those lands.</p> <p>S. Fournier requested we consider extending that NRI across the whole property.</p>	ChrisC will post draft NRI RFP in dropbox along with supporting and sample documents, including the NHACC Natural Resources Inventory Manual
8. Tucker Brook TF timber harvest	Awaiting bids	
9. Land and Water Conservation Fund	Inspection on June 6 at 10:00. M/L 40/61 Goodridge; 40/15 Svibruck; 10/53, 55 Gibbons/Curtis at Tucker Brook TF. M/L 9/5 Norwood at Mayflower TF. M/L 31/32 Kaley Park. With Eric Feldbaum from DRED and Arene Berry, Rec Director.	ChrisC will check to see if the LWCF signs are posted at Tucker Brook and at Mayflower TFs.
10. Future work session – May	Work session planned for May 20 at 7:00 in OCD conference room to work on the Wetlands Overlay District	ChrisC will post current ordinance in dropbox

#### Public Comments:

Suzanne Fournier (SF) addressed the Commission:

1. SF asked for the Commission's opinion concerning Warrant Article 21 on the 2014 ballot which was about graveling at Brox. AudreyF responded that the Commission had no opinion. SF requested that the Commission have a discussion and make an opinion.
2. SF asked about the disturbance along Perry Rd which resulted in a rut. AudreyF said that she would ask Dana McAllister, Code Enforcement Officer, to send a letter to SF responding to the complaint.
3. Snow storage on commercial properties which SF had noted and informed the Commission. AudreyF signed a letter which will be sent to one of the landowners. The letter outlined the reasons to keep snow storage out of wetlands and buffers and asked for consideration to store the snow in a different location next winter season.

**Work Session**

11. IDR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Colburn easement – no action taken.</li><li>b. Connectivity Plan – NRPC grant to identify existing sidewalks and trails so that gaps can be identified, prioritized and filled.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Need a trail from the High School to Heron Pond School</li><li>• Remove Kokko Well from the map – it has been discontinued</li><li>• Adams Park is mislabeled</li><li>• Change symbology for unmanaged trails</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Members will review it and send in comments. Available in dropbox under Easements/Colburn</li><li>b. AudreyF and Chris C will attend. Chris will send comments were noted and will be sent to Planning Dept.</li></ul>
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**Next Regular Meeting – June 12, 2014 @ 7PM, Selectmen's Meeting Room.**